

Message Text

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67

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /074 W

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R 050940Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3794

INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS PFOR AG MO SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA: AMGALA FOOTNOTE

1. FOREIGN JOURNALIST HERE TELLS US THAT GOM HELICOPTERED GROUP OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS TO AMGALA TO SEE "BATTLEGROUND." ONE OF CORRESPONDENTS, MALCOM BROWNE OF NEW YORK TIMES, IS EXPECTED TO REPORT ON BBC FEB 3 THAT HE SAW LITTLE OR NO EVIDENCE OF MAJOR CLASH HAVING TAKEN PLACE AT SPOT SHOWN TO JOURNALISTS BY GOM. BROWNE, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, IS IN POSITION TO MAKE INFORMED JUDGMENT BASED ON HIS EXPERIENCE AS REPORTER IN VIETNAM.

2. UPON RETURN TO SMARA FROM AMGALA TOUR, JOURNALISTS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE ASKED TO INTERVIEW ALGERIAN PRISONERS CAPTURED FOLLOWING CLASH. GOM ONLY ABLE TO PRODUCE 3 OR 4 AND SAID REMAINDER HAD BEEN FLOWN TO RABAT.

3. COMMENT: WAS AMGALA FOR REAL? BOTH SIDES CERTAINLY SEEM TO THINK SO, BUT WAR OF WORDS WHICH FOLLOWED THE SHOOTING, MAY HAVE BEEN FIERCEST PART OF COMBAT.LYNE
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